

## VISION & VALUES

New Beginnings Church is a non-denominational Christian church situated in Jackson County, Oregon. The church was planted in 2000 through our church planting organization, the OCEF (Oregon Christian Evangelistic Fellowship), with a small group of families including our senior pastor, Don Calvert.

## OUR VISION

“Reaching the world for Jesus one person at a time.” [Matthew 28:18](#)

## THE MISSION

“Creating biblical disciples in relational environments.” [Acts 2:42-47](#)

## THE PROCESS

“Developing disciples through SCMD.” Everything we do at New Beginnings revolves around these four purposes.

- **S** – We will SHARE Christ with a dying world, making disciples of all nations - [1 Peter 2:9](#).
- **C** – We will CONNECT disciples into a leader directed Small Group, which we commonly call our Home Groups - [2 Timothy 2:2](#).
- **M** – In Home Groups we will train disciples of Jesus to MINISTER in the church, and in the world – [Ephesians 4:11-12](#).
- **D** – We will release those who have been discipled to DISCIPLE others – [Matthew 28:18-20](#).

## NEW BEGINNINGS STATEMENTS & POSITIONS

**NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH** has grown because God has added to our numbers. [Acts 2:47](#). We have tried to glorify Jesus Christ in everything we do. Our church has sought to be unified in the “major” things and have allowed for differing opinions in the “minor” things. Jesus said that the world would know that we are His disciples by the way we love one another. [John 13:35](#); [John 17:21-22](#)

This church has people with many different backgrounds, but we are a team. We are more interested in glorifying God than arguing over non-salvation issues. “How can we agree rather than disagree?” is a very important question we are continually seeking to answer. “How can we apply the truths of scripture in ways that shows love for our Father and love for one another so that Jesus is glorified in all we do?”

## NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH DETAILED STATEMENTS OF FAITH

These are our non-negotiable statements of faith:

### THE BIBLE

The Bible is God’s Word to us. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, the Bible is our truth without any mixture or error. The Bible is infallible, inerrant, and absolute truth. Where it speaks, we listen and obey.

[Psalm 12:6](#); [119:105](#); [Proverbs 30:5](#); [2 Timothy 1:13](#); [3:16](#); [2 Peter 1:20-21](#)

## GOD

God is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. He eternally exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and are one God. [Genesis 1:1, 26-27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2](#)

## JESUS

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is coequal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended back into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God and will return again someday to claim His own and take them to Heaven. [Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:22-23; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14-15](#)

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is coequal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in His church as His people go out into the world sharing His Gospel message of salvation. The Holy Spirit is given to those who repented of their sins, and have been baptized into Christ according to [Acts 2:38-41](#). The Holy Spirit provides the disciple of Jesus with power for living, understanding spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. As Christians, we seek to live under His leading daily. [John 14:16-17, John 16:7-13; Acts 1:5-8 1 Corinthians 2:6-16; 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:11-14; 5:17-18](#)

## SALVATION

Salvation is God's sacrificial gift to us through Jesus' death on the cross, but we must accept His finished work on the cross. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ and God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from the penalty of sin. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life is given when you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. Allowing Jesus to be the Lord of this life will be evidenced by repentance, confession, baptism by immersion, and a life committed to His service. [John 1:12; 14:6; Acts 2:36-41, Romans 5:1; 6:1-14, 23 Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:1-7](#)

## BAPTISM

The Greek word for baptism is: *Baptizo*. The definition is: to dip, to plunge, to immerse someone fully underneath the water. This is the only mode of baptism found in the N.T. Scriptures and was the only form of baptism practiced by the early church.

We believe all should be baptized for the following reasons:

1. To follow the example set by Jesus Christ. [Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23; John 1:29-35](#).
2. Because Jesus and the Apostles commanded it. [Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 2:38-41](#)
3. Because the early church believed it was important. [Acts 8:9-13, 35-40; 9:1-19; 10:1-48; 16:11-15, 16-34; 19:1-5; Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 4:1-8; Colossians 2:9-12; Hebrews 6:1-3; 1 Peter 3:18-22](#).

4. Because baptism has a great deal of physical and spiritual significance. It's a picture of Christ's death and resurrection. It's where we experience His DBR (Death, Burial and Resurrection) **Romans 6:1-10**.
5. So that Jesus' church would NOT be divided; that His church would have a common message. **1 Corinthians 1:10-17**

### **Who Should Be Baptized?**

Those who believe and have repented.

### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

God has designed the local church like a physical body, with Jesus Christ as the head and we, His people, as the body. God gifts each of His children in unique and special ways to serve and build up the body. Therefore, spiritual gifts are not for personal benefit, gain, or glory, but to bring glory to God. In this way, we are encouraging and building up the church. **Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 7:7, 12:1-11, 12-31, 14:1-4; Ephesians 4:1-13**

No one individual can have all the gifts. **1 Corinthians 12:17-30**. We are interdependent on each other; together we are the body of Christ, which is a clear demonstration of true diversity. There is no division as we all have equal concern and need for each other. One is an eye, another is a hand, another is a foot; some are presentable while other parts are un-presentable.

We all must be the part God has designed us to be, if not, the body suffers and becomes ill. "If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully." **Romans 12:6-8**

Unfortunately, some division can come with reference to the use of tongues. God gives rules in His word for the use of tongues. If someone speaks in a tongue it will be one at a time. **1 Corinthians 14:27**. There must be an interpreter. **1 Corinthians 14:28**. There must be one who discerns whether it comes from God. **1 John 4:1**

It is noteworthy that 1 Corinthians was written to house churches. To preserve unity in the body of New Beginnings Church, we ask that the gift of speaking in tongues not be exercised in public meetings (services/CARE Groups/small groups).

### **PEOPLE**

People are made in the image of God, to be like Him in character. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life. **Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6; 59:1-2; Romans 3:23**

### **ETERNITY**

People will either exist eternally separated from God by sin in a place called hell, or exist eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation in heaven. To be eternally separated from God is eternal death in Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life in Heaven. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. **John 3:16; 14:17; Romans 6:23; 8:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9; Revelation 20:15**

## ETERNAL SECURITY

This has been a long-standing argument between scholars from two different theological camps. The Arminians believe salvation can be gained and lost. The Calvinists believe once a person is saved he or she can never be lost again. There are great scholars who stand on both sides of this debate. Both believe that a person can be identified as a Christian if there is a change in behavior—fruit. The Holy Spirit produces a changed character over time.

In New Beginnings, we will encourage those who have given their lives to Christ to become His disciples, to grow into maturity. If they fall down in their faith, we will help them to get back up and continue on with Christ. We believe that a disciple of Jesus can have great confidence in their salvation. The Arminian believes that only a person who has denied their faith in Christ is lost and is proven out by how they are living - behavior equals intent. The Calvinist believes that a person who has denied faith in Christ was never saved to begin with. Again, either way, faith in Christ Jesus saves us. Ultimately, we have people from both backgrounds in our church and we have decided to encourage disciples of Christ to walk out their salvation biblically, daily, rather than debate the finer points of doctrine on this issue.

## THE END TIMES

We believe there will be a literal return of Christ and a judgment day. We also believe there will be a literal rapture (a catching up of the saints). How and when this will happen has been a source of great debate. We believe the details are in God's hands and this is not a salvation issue. [Matthew 12:36](#); [John 5:22](#); [2 Corinthians 5:10](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:16-17](#); [2 Peter 3:7](#); [Jude 6](#)

## THE LEADERSHIP MODEL OF THE CHURCH

New Beginnings Church is a non-denominational Christian church. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe the local church should be Pastor/Elder-led. [Acts 14:23](#); [1 Timothy 5:17](#)

## THE PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER

“Christ loves us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God” –[Revelation 1:6](#). “You are ... the King's priests, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God.” [1 Peter 2:9](#). The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full-time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every partner in ministry to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through Bible reading/study, prayer, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Every Christian is to be a disciple, developing relational environments in which they share their faith with those around them by word and by action.

## COMMUNION

Communion at New Beginnings Church is defined as Scripture defines it. “For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’” [1 Corinthians 11:23-25](#)

Communion is a living reminder of what Jesus accomplished for us by dying on the cross, a new covenant, and a continuing proclamation. It is a sacred event for those who have a vital, biblical relationship with Jesus. “For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.” **1 Corinthians 11:26-30**. We take communion every week in our services.

## STEWARDSHIP

We practice tithing to support the church, the body of Christ, as God’s Word commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the biblical standard of giving to the local church. Tithing is the place to begin but a terrible place to end. Everything over and above a growing tithe is an “offering of gratitude” for the great things God does for us every day, because everything belongs to the Lord. A tithe is where our Father says to begin. **Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:7-12**.

God says the first 10% is to be given to Him, He says it is holy to Him. The offering is a privilege to give and is in addition to the growing tithe. Jesus taught about tithing: “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices mint, dill, and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law- justice, mercy, and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter (tithing), without neglecting the former.” **Matthew 23:23**

We also recognize that we must be good stewards of our time, and our talents as the Lord has blessed us with these things as well. God’s goal in commanding us to be givers was not to harm us, but to help us.

Consider what Jesus said in **Matthew 6:19-21**. He said 19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (NIV)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth.” Why not? Because earthly treasures are bad? No. Because they won’t last. When Jesus warns us not to store up treasures on earth, it’s not because wealth might be lost; it’s because wealth will always be lost. Either it leaves us while we live, or we leave it when we die. There are no exceptions.

Jesus commanded us to give because we are never more like God than when we give. When we give, we are saying to God, “I want to be like you, because you gave your very best to us in your son Jesus. As **John 3:16** says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (NIV)